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A SOURCE-BOOK FOR ANCIENT CHURCH HISTORY FROM THE APOSTOLIC AGE TO THE CLOSE OF THE CONCILIAR PERIOD. JOSEPH CULLEN AYER, Jr., Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the Divinity School of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1913. Pp. xxi, 707. \$3.00.

Many teachers in this country have long desired to secure a book of collateral readings in the history of early Christianity. The present volume, prepared at the suggestion of the American Society of Church History, presents, in idiomatic translation, a generous selection of representative source-extracts, carefully arranged and well indexed. Save for the fact that running paragraph numbers do not appear at the top of the pages, the printing is admirable. Had the primary division of material been topical, as in Thatcher and McNeal's *Source Book for Mediaeval History*, instead of chronological, it would have been easier to remember what one reads. He who sails through these pages soon gets his sea-legs in spite of the quick succession of short and choppy waves of interest, and feels that he is making steady progress toward a clearly discerned port. The book offers a more vivid view of the manifold activities of the church under the Roman emperors than can be gained from the few dogmatic or hortatory tracts which have hitherto formed the staple of required reading. In addition to the standard pronouncements on creed and conduct, it marshals effectively much material on the actual workings of the church as an institution; for instance, paragraphs 72-78: "The Empire and the Imperial State Church." Here, as elsewhere, Professor Ayer, long a student of ecclesiastical law, has gathered regulations governing the life of the common man; but he does not show so clearly how that elusive and usually inarticulate being reacted toward the state church. American theological students do not have any idea of what the common man heard and saw when he attended the services of Cyprian, and they have the vaguest notions about the more important demands of the hierarchy on the laity. They should therefore enjoy the specific and occasionally picturesque detail here presented with adequate elucidation. The material made easily accessible puts greater variety and life into the study of the history of the ancient church. Those who prepare seminar-papers will regret that the publishers omitted the very suggestive bibliographies that prefaced each paragraph of the original manuscript; but for the average student, as for the pastor, the book will be a boon. Its unusually objective standpoint will make it also very useful in university instruction in early mediaeval history.

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